

operationjulie**getting behind the UK's biggest LSD operation**

The Last Resort, 294 Fulham Road, SW10 – Richard Burden and Nick Wedgwood Evans

May 29, 2012



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/294fulhamroad.jpg>)

294 Fulham Road, London – formerly the Last Resort bar

With the redevelopment of this stretch of the Fulham Road, a bit of London's rock history is lost forever. Similarly, the role played by the Last Resort in the 70s UK acid scene has almost vanished from history as well.

In April 1974, an Irish man had been arrested in Australia carrying 1500 microdots from London. He named the Last Resort as the main distribution point for acid in London, with Richard Burden ('Eric' in Leaf Fielding's book) as the person handling distribution. The Australian police passed on the information to the UK police. In August 1974, the UK police received a tip-off about the Last Resort involving one of the owners – Nicholas Wedgwood Evans, the son of well-known English actor Michael Evans. A tap was put on the Last Resort's phone (01 352 1625) and the premises was raided shortly after – but nothing was found. However, a further tip-off was received that LSD had been hidden in the ventilation ducts of a hire car that had been returned to the hire firm with the acid still inside. A dealer friend was paid to recover the acid, but was arrested by the police. A warrant was put out for Nick Evans but police were unable to track him down.

Burden was an old contact of Brian Cuthbertson's, and had been involved in the upper echelons of the UK acid world since the early 70s. His main distribution was to Amsterdam, supplying 'domes' shaped microdots produced by Andy Munro. Amsterdam was then a major distribution point for acid in Europe; David Solomon also had major interests there with the acid produced by Richard Kemp. Leaf recalls 'Eric' being very showbiz, and driving a vintage chocolate and cream

Bentley to a rendezvous at a country pub to collect around 50,000 microdots. Leaf had some doubts about 'Eric's' security-consciousness – *"I was sure of the discretion of Henry, Brian and Russ. Eric the showman was another matter."* Leaf was right to be concerned: Burden had a bad habit of using Brian Cuthbertson's address when signing for hire cars.

In the mid-70s the Last Resort was popular with the Glam rock crowd, being formed with the help of Ringo Starr and Keith Moon. David and Angie Bowie, then living nearby at 89 Oakley Street in Chelsea, were also visitors. Angie Bowie remembered of that period:

Living in Chelsea, a person of style and substance had easy access to an array of social pleasures; not just one's friends' private houses or the welcome all-daily fashion parade along boutique-studded Kings Road, but some very good, fun, semi-exclusive clubs, restaurants, and other mingling spots...

The Last Resort, a bar and restaurant right across the street [from Laurita's on Fulham Road] was another kind of thrill. It had a dance floor small enough to get packed and hot rather quickly, and as well as the usual mix of art/fashion/theater/film/music people, it attracted a faster, slicker contingent: advertising executives, shadily wealthy importer/exporter types, and outright gangsters. You hit the Last Resort when you wanted a bit more of a charge than usual, anything from a good hard dance sweat to a one-night stand with a guy packing a gun.



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/david-and-angela-bowie-in-the-70s.jpg>)

David and Angie Bowie: Chelsea residents and patrons of the Last Resort

By the beginning of the punk era in 1976, based around the nearby Kings Road, the Last Resort was beginning to pick up a new generation of customers from the punk/new wave crowd. Chrissie Hynde, later of the Pretenders, and then working at Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood's shop on the Kings Road, took her friend Chris Spedding to see the Sex Pistols play in March 1976:

Chris Spedding: Rotten was either pushed or jumped off the stage in disgust, and McLaren screamed at him that he wouldn't get his taxi fare home if he didn't get back on stage.

Chrissie Hynde: He not only left the stage, he left the club. Chris drove us (Chrissie and Rotten) out and we ended up in some all-night joint that was still open, just a cafe, actually at this place called the Last Resort, which people used to end up at back in Fulham back in those days.

John Lydon occasionally drank there when he later lived one street away at 45 Gunter Grove. The Last Resort had a brief time as a fashionable bar. I recall hearing it being named as the scene of Bob Geldoff and Paula Yate's first date. More on the Last Resort

here: <http://www.magickpapers.com/blog/?p=463> (<http://www.magickpapers.com/blog/?p=463>) (though the geography of London as described is not quite right).

Nick Wedgwood Evans relocated to Los Angeles and became a showbiz entrepreneur and 'multimedia advisor'. Richard Burden received a 6 year sentence in the Operation Julie trial. The Last Resort has been most recently been a Greek restaurant – Chelsea Meze – but this whole block of the Fulham Road is currently being redeveloped.

From → Uncategorized

Leave a Comment

Blog at WordPress.com. | The Titan Theme.

Follow

Follow “operationjulie”

Build a website with WordPress.com